

NATIONAL CAPITAL TOPICS.

PLEURO-PNEUMONIA IN THE WEST.
AN ALARMING REPORT FROM DR. SALMON AT PEORIA-INFECTED JERSEYS SPREADING DISEASE.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 21.—About two weeks ago was received at the Department of Agriculture a report from Dr. Salmon, who was sent to make an investigation. He says:

"There can no longer be any doubt of the outbreak's being contagious pleuro-pneumonia. It seems to be traceable to a combination sale of Jersey cattle held at Viroqua, Illinois, February 21. These animals were widely distributed and it is impossible to say how much damage they have done. Other animals have since been sold in the infected herds, and 21 that I have heard of have gone to other States, and transfers are continually being made; others from infected herds will certainly have been put in the combination sale to take place in Chicago the first week in September. This sale, I shall try to have postponed. This is the most serious outbreak of disease that has occurred for a long time, and unless prompt action is taken to stop it the Jersey cattle interest in the West will be ruined, and pleuro-pneumonia will be beyond control. Several of the fine herds in the States are now infected; one affected animal in a herd examined to-day is worth \$1,500. Some other animals in these herds are worth much more than that, and two or three might be worth \$1,000 each."

Dr. Salmon further says that the State authorities have agreed to cooperate with the government in exterminating the cattle.

Acting Commissioner Carman has telegraphed him:

"Take all means deemed necessary and to the full extent authorized by law."

Official of the Agricultural Department say this is the first time that pleuro-pneumonia has appeared in the West. Therefore it has been confined to the East. They will make every effort to prevent a spread of the disease.

Dr. Salmon further says that the Bankers and Merchants' Company, by whom the Bankers and merchants' company obtained the control of the

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